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James Monroe's Doctrine

The Monroe Doctrine was a United States policy that opposed European colonialism in the Americas. It argued that any intervention in the politics of the Americas by foreign powers was a potentially hostile act against the United States. It began in 1823. The term "Monroe Doctrine" was not used until 1850.

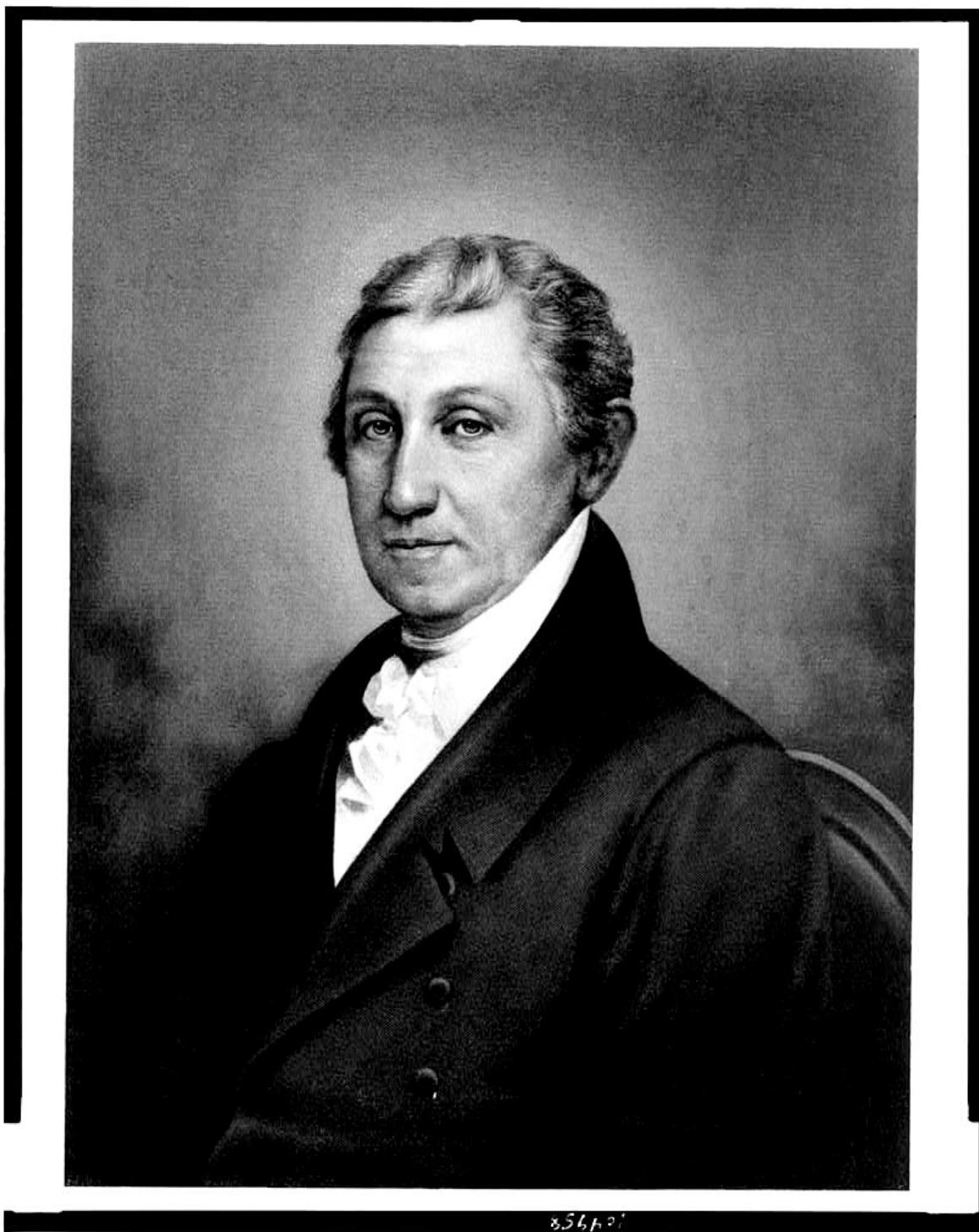
President James Monroe first stated the doctrine during his seventh annual State of the Union Address to the Congress. It was chiefly written by Monroe's Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. The doctrine asserted that the New World and the Old World were to remain distinctly separate spheres of influence.

It stated that further efforts by various European states to take control of any independent state in the Americas would be viewed as "the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States." At the same time, the doctrine noted that the U.S. would recognize and not interfere with existing European colonies nor meddle in the internal affairs of European countries.

The separation intended to avoid situations that could make the New World a battleground for the Old World powers so that the U.S. could exert its influence undisturbed. By the end of the 19th century, Monroe's declaration was seen as a defining moment in the foreign policy of the United States. (Wp)

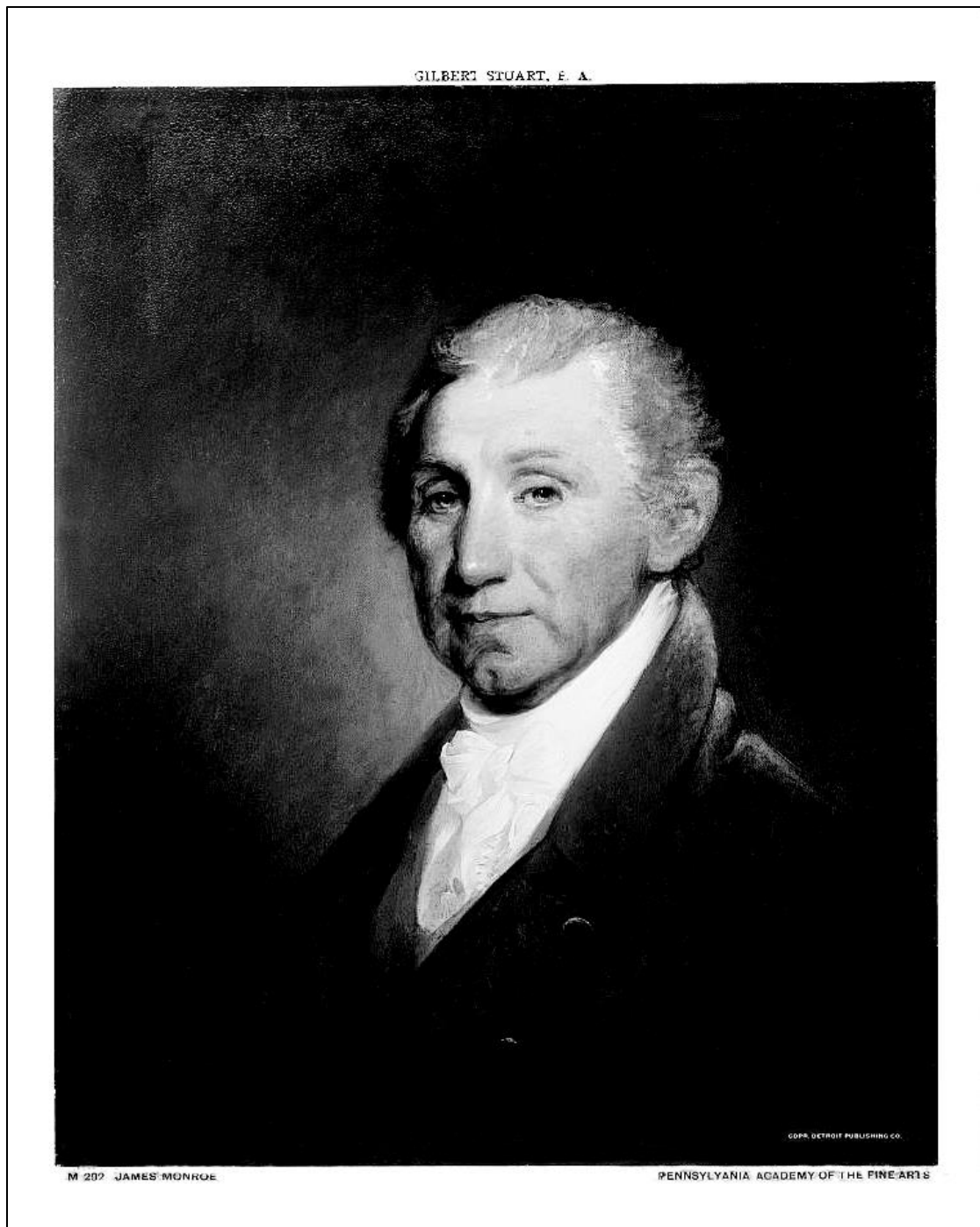
Transcript of Monroe Doctrine (Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Americanization Dept.; University of California Libraries; SRLF_UCSB: LAGE-4130256; archive.org):

... At the proposal of the Russian Imperial Government, made through the minister of the Emperor residing here, a full power and instructions have been transmitted to the minister of the United States at St. Petersburg to arrange by amicable negotiation the respective rights and interests of the two nations on the northwest coast of this continent.



James Monroe; half-length portrait, facing left; created/published c1914; based on a portrait by Gilbert Stuart; photomechanical print: halftone; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 91482930; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-104958.

A similar proposal has been made by His Imperial Majesty to the Government of Great Britain, which has likewise been acceded to. The Government of the United States has been desirous by this friendly proceeding of manifesting the great value which they have invariably attached to the friendship of the Emperor and their solicitude to cultivate the best understanding with his Government.



James Monroe; created/published c[between 1900 and 1920]; Detroit Publishing Co., publisher; Stuart, Gilbert, 1755-1828, artist; negative: glass; 8 x 10 in.; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2016816284; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-det-4a26106.

In the discussions to which this interest has given rise and in the arrangements by which they may terminate the occasion has been judged proper for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers ...



JAMES MONROE

5TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

*Published by G. ENDICOTT, 338 Broadway,
NEW YORK.*

James Monroe; created/ published [no date recorded on shelf list card]; print; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2003679976; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-87925.

It was stated at the commencement of the last session that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal to improve the condition of the people of those countries, and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation. It need scarcely be remarked that the results have been so far very different from what was then anticipated.



Painted by C. B. King

Published Dec. 15, 1817 by W.H. Morgan, Philad.

Engraved by Goodman & Piggot

JAMES MONROE L.L.D.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

See also, vol. 1, p. 100

James Monroe; seated at White House with view of Capitol in background; created/published Philadelphia: W.H. Morgan, 1817 Dec. 15; engraved by Goodman & Piggot; King, Charles Bird, 1785-1862, artist; stipple engraving; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 96522321; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-03759.

Of events in that quarter of the globe, with which we have so much intercourse and from which we derive our origin, we have always been anxious and interested spectators. The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow-men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparation for our defense.



Engr. by A.B. Durand from the Painting by J. Vanderlyn in the City Hall, New York.

JAMES MONROE.

James Monroe

Entered according to the act of Congress in the year 1835 by James Monroe in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Southern District of New York.

James Monroe; half-length, facing right; created/published c1835; steel engraving by A.B. Durand after painting by J. Vanderlyn; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2002711773; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-83819.

With the movements in this hemisphere we are of necessity more immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective Governments; and to the defense of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted.



James Monroe; head-and-shoulders portrait, facing slightly left, in oval; created /published c1897 Feb. 20; lithograph, color; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2004671508; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-07238.

We owe it, therefore, to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere.



JAMES MONROE,

5th President of the United States

Engraved & Published by H. B. S. in New York at 37 N. Moore's, corner of Wall St.

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James Monroe; created /published [no date recorded on shelf list card]; print; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2003679813; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-12400.

But with the Governments who have declared their independence and maintain it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States.



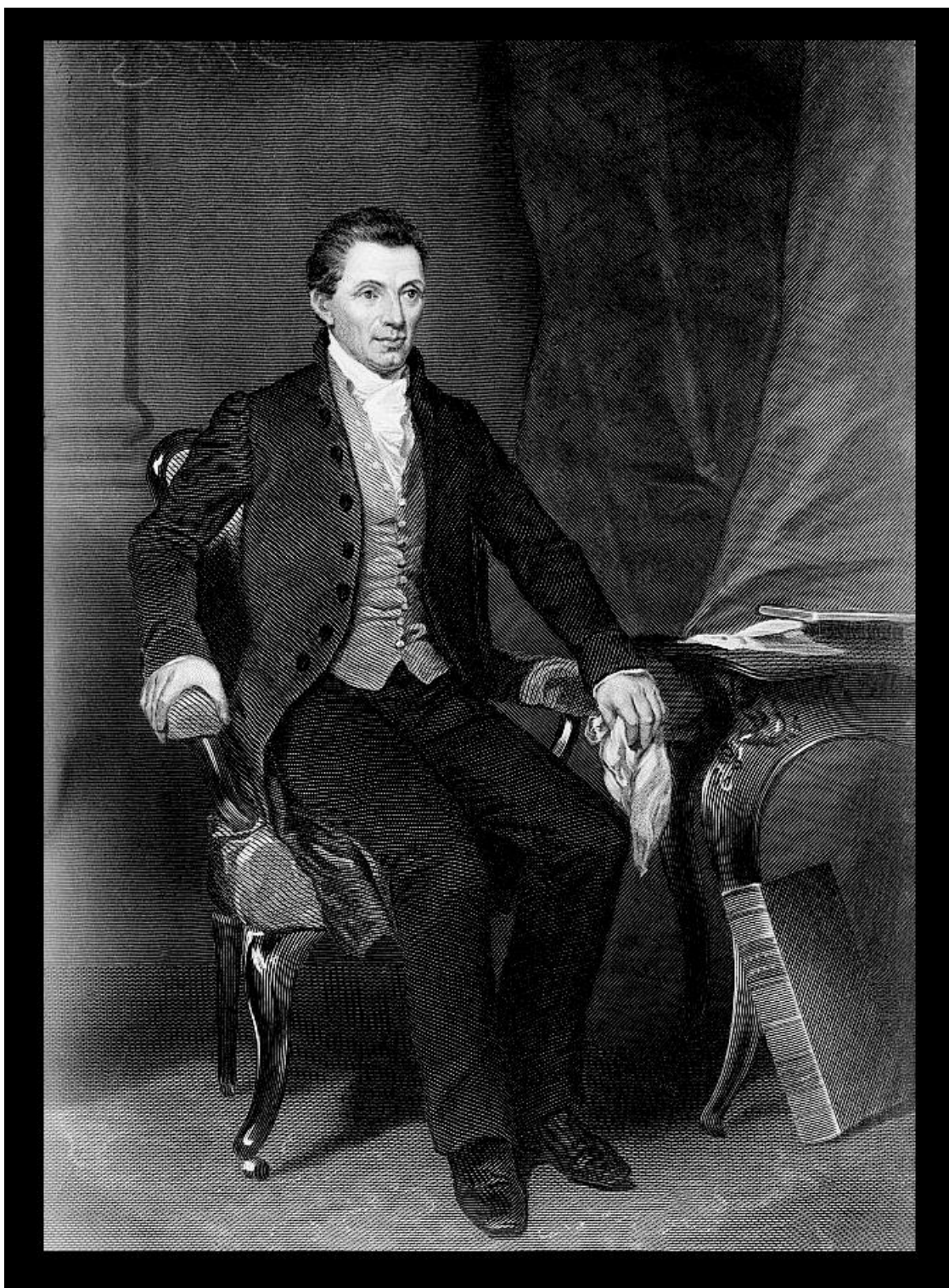
JAMES MONROE.

5th President of the United States.

Art. estate of Henry Holt.

James Monroe; half-length portrait, seated, facing slightly left, with hands on desk; created/published [between 1830 and 1842], D.W. Kellogg & Co.; lithograph; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2002706764; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-11239.

In the war between those new Governments and Spain we declared our neutrality at the time of their recognition, and to this we have adhered, and shall continue to adhere, provided no change shall occur which, in the judgement of the competent authorities of this Government, shall make a corresponding change on the part of the United States indispensable to their security.



James Monroe; created/published [between 1916 and 1919]; negative: glass; 5 x 7 in. or smaller; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2016854307; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-hec-10969.

The late events in Spain and Portugal shew that Europe is still unsettled. Of this important fact no stronger proof can be adduced than that the allied powers should have thought it proper, on any principle satisfactory to themselves, to have interposed by force in the internal concerns of Spain. To what extent such interposition may be carried, on the same principle, is a question in which all independent powers whose governments differ from theirs are interested, even those most remote, and surely none of them more so than the United States.



Engraved according to an act of Congress in the year 1800, by C. S. WILLIAMS in the 22nd Congress, at the President's house, at the Eastern United States of America.

JAMES MONROE,
5TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA.

Published by C. S. WILLIAMS, N.E. corner of Market & 7TH St.

James Monroe; created/published c1846; print; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2003673084; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-11755.

Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at an early stage of the wars which have so long agitated that quarter of the globe, nevertheless remains the same, which is, not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers; to consider the government de facto as the legitimate government for us; to cultivate friendly relations with it, and to preserve those relations by a frank, firm, and manly policy, meeting in all instances the just claims of every power, submitting to injuries from none. But in regard to those continents circumstances are eminently and conspicuously different.



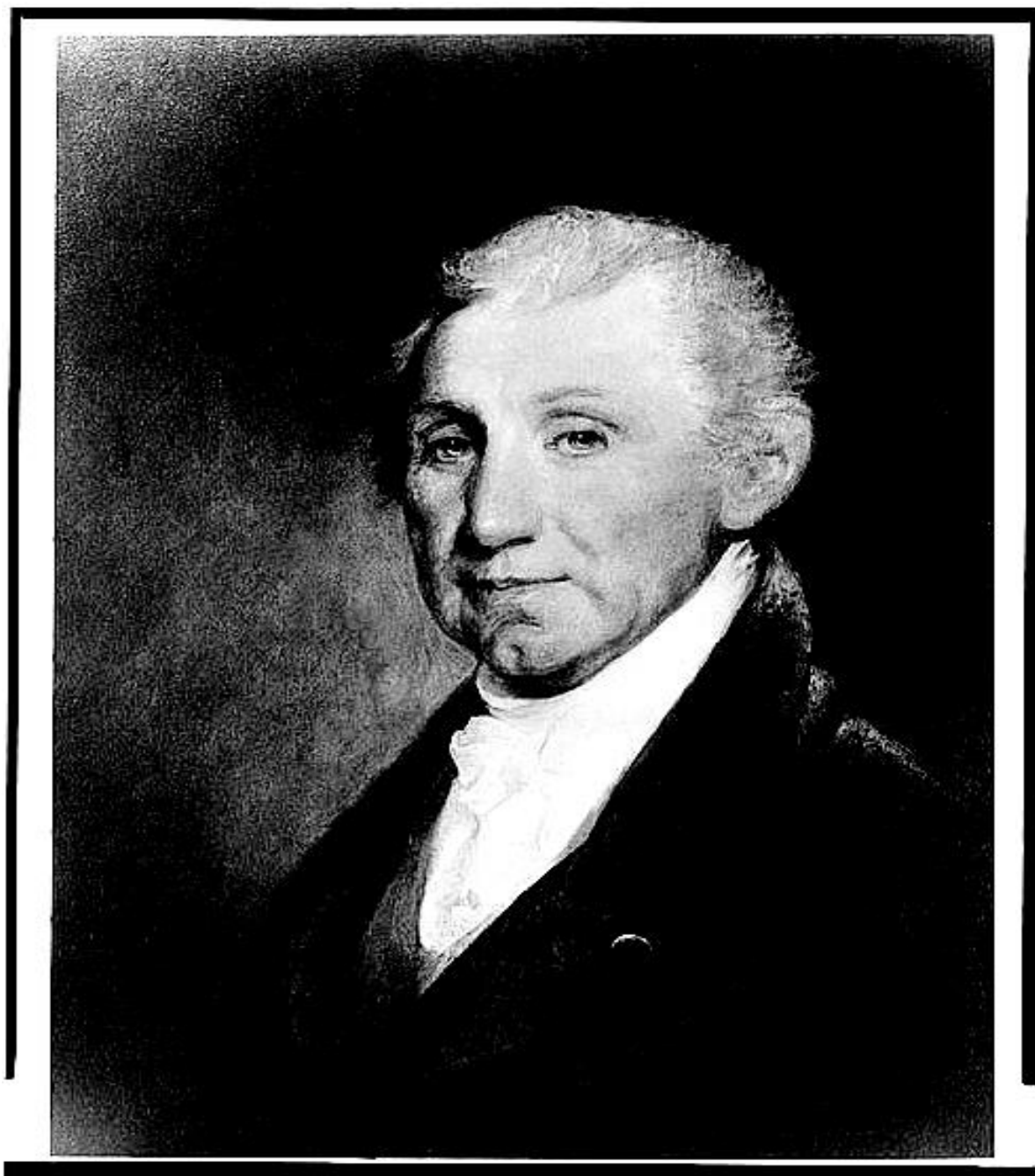
JAMES MONROE .
FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES .

*From the Original now painted by Stuart,
for the 'U.S. Dignity of Boston'*

Engraved according to the Act of Congress

James Monroe; half-length portrait, seated, facing slightly left, holding papers in right hand; created/published [Place not identified]: [Publisher not identified], [1828?]; Pendleton's Lithography; Stuart, Gilbert, 1755-1828, artist; lithograph; Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number: 2003677110; Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-11883.

It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system to any portion of either continent without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can anyone believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own accord. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interposition in any form with indifference.



James Monroe; three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing slightly left;
created/published [between 1900 and 1920]; photograph of painting by Gilbert Stuart;
photograph: black and white, gelatin silver print; Library of Congress Prints and
Photographs Division Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress Control Number:
2014648285; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-13005.

If we look to the comparative strength and resources of Spain and those new Governments, and their distance from each other, it must be obvious that she can never subdue them. It is still the true policy of the United States to leave the parties to themselves, in hope that other powers will pursue the same course ...

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